

New-York Daily Tribune

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1862.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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THE TAX BILL.

NOW READY.

In a pamphlet of 32 pages, on fine, white paper. Beside the bill, which is word for word in accordance with the original text, we append to it an Alphabetical Recapitulation of every article to be taxed by the law, and the amount of the tax to be levied thereon. This renders it as complete and convenient as it is possible to make it. The bill taxes almost every article in use, and every person is interested to know the amount.

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THE TRIBUNE, New-York.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

Nearly one thousand Green Mountain (Vt.) Boys arrived here yesterday from Brattleboro'. They came from New-Haven on the steamer Bay State, landed at the foot of Twenty-third street, and proceeded by their drum corps and resident Vermonters, marched to Madison Square, where they were entertained by the Sons of Rhode Island. The officers dined at the Fifth-Avenue Hotel, where impromptu speeches were made, and hosts and guests had a good time. About 4 o'clock the new regiment (it has been raised since the President issued his call for more troops) marched down the Fifth avenue to Fourteenth street, thence to Broadway, and through Broadway to pier No. 1, where the men embarked for Washington. The fine appearance of these stalwart soldiers excited unusual demonstrations of enthusiasm. Guns were fired from the City Hall Park, refreshments were distributed from the Astor House, and everybody seemed anxious to do kind offices for the gallant boys. Two other regiments are filling up in Vermont and will soon be here.

—Here is one of the isolated facts that betray the terrible slaughter made in the Rebel army during the late battles before Richmond—a slaughter that Jeff. Davis is concealing with the utmost care. The 7th Tennessee Regiment, says *The Grenada Appeal*, went into the fight with 300 men. On the morning of the 28th (Saturday) only 40 remained unhurt; at evening not one could be mustered for service. If the truth is ever told, it will show that the loss of life on the part of the Rebels has no parallel in the history of war.

—The steamer *Ann of London*, a testimonial of British neutrality, was cleverly caught by our blockade runner off Mobile on the 29th ult., and arrived at this port yesterday in charge a prize crew. She got in at night, with the collusion and help of Fort Morgan; was discovered and attacked in the morning; her crew tried to sink her, and made off for their lives; our men saved her, and here she is, with a cargo of gunpowder, arms, coffee, tea, paper, &c.

—Gov. Morgan, on behalf of the State of New-York, assumes the responsibility of proclaiming a bounty of \$50 for each new recruit under the recent call for troops. He does this to save the time and expense of a special session of the Legislature, trusting that that body will endorse his action. There can be no doubt that he will be fully sustained, and he will certainly be unanimously applauded by the people.

—Dispatches from Memphis confirm the news of the safe arrival at Helena, Arkansas, of General Curtis's army. On the 7th instant they had a sharp fight with the Rebels, whom they defeated with great slaughter. Our troops buried 110 of the enemy, and captured and paroled a number of prisoners. Union loss eight killed and thirty-two wounded.

—What the Government may know we are not permitted to know, but if any judgment can be made up from outside rumors, the Shenandoah Valley is in anything but a healthy state. Latest rumors indicate that Winchester is again threatened by the Rebels, and there is a general impression of uncertainty throughout the entire region.

—We print on another page interesting letters from Hilton Head, Gen. Stevens's official report of the James Island battle, and a letter from Gen. Stevens to Gen. Hunter on the same subject.

—A Petersburg paper reports the shelling by Union gunboats of the small town of Hamilton, N. S. As the water was high, it was feared that an attack would be made upon Weldon.

—The flurry and scare in Tennessee appears to be over. It is now said that the Rebels have left Murfreesboro, and that Nashville is not in danger.

—Nashville reckons itself out of danger. The Rebel guerrillas are falling back.

GENERAL NEWS.

—In Senate, yesterday, the bill to authorize Kentucky to raise troops for service in that State only was laid aside. The House resolution, explanatory of the Confiscation bill, was called up, and an amendment offered that no punishment under the bill shall work the forfeiture of real estate beyond the natural life of the person accused. A long debate ensued, devoted mainly to censuring the President for indicating his objections to the Confiscation bill to individual Senators, instead of sending in a written veto. The amendment was adopted, 55 to 15. Another slight amendment was made—that in granting amnesty the President may restore property if he thinks best. Bills were passed for the more prompt settlement of the accounts of disbursing officers; amending the Internal Revenue act; with regard to the pay of Members of Congress absent from their duty. The bill for the exchange of prisoners was taken up, and the section authorizing the President to suspend the writ of habeas corpus was amended so as to limit to the time when Congress is not in session, and to political offenders. The bill was further amended, so that pensioners be not discharged until they take the oath of allegiance to the United States. Mr. Chandler made an elaborate speech upon the conduct of the war, in the course of which he very sharply criticized the operations of Gen. McClellan in the Peninsula. The Senator fortified his statements by reading testimony taken by the Committee on the conduct of the war.

In the House the Conference Committee's report on the bill prohibiting the confinement of persons in the military service of the Government in the Penitentiary, was concurred in. The President's Gradual Emancipation bill was reported from the Select Committee, and referred to the Committee of the Whole. The bill for the admission of Western Virginia was postponed to December, by 63 to 53. The Senate bill authorizing the President to enter into contracts with any foreign Government for the reception and colonization of recaptured Africans in the West India Islands, was passed. The Senate bill amending the Militia act of 1795, authorizing the President to call out the militia, and

the employment of persons of African descent, &c., was passed. The Senate's bill explanatory of the Confiscation act was passed—Yeas, 83; Nays, 21. The House concurred in the Senate's amendment to the Tax bill, extending the period within which certain work is to be done.

—The steamer *Persia*, which sailed from Liverpool on July 5, and from Queenstown the 6th, arrived at this port yesterday. Her news is two days later than received by the Norwegian. *The London Times*, in an editorial on the American war, has another malicious attack upon American institutions. In union with *The London Herald*, it argues that, if the Northern States were loyal to the principles of the Constitution, they would consent to a peaceable separation. *The Daily News* and *The Star* denounce the article of *The Times* as ungentlemanly and un-English. Parliament was occupied with discussing the condition of British America, and especially with the feasibility of establishing a road between Canada and Columbia. The latter news respecting Mexico discloses no new facts. According to one report, the Emperor will send an additional force of at least 25,000 to Mexico; according to the other, he will try to get himself out of the expedition as soon and as easy as possible. The Grand Duke Constantine has arrived at Warsaw, and been on the whole well received by the Poles. Yet, on the night of the 3d, an unknown man had slightly wounded him while stepping into his carriage.

STATE OF THE MARKETS.

The stock movement was a repetition of that of Tuesday, without the rally at the close. The transaction were to limited extent, and to a large extent for cash. There was no special reason for the continued decline. At the Second Board the tone was unchanged, and the shares showed a further decline of 1/4 cent. A good supply of Government Securities were in the market and prices were weak. Coupon Bonds selling at 95 1/2; the 7.30s sold as low as 107 1/2, and Indebtedness Certificates at 94. At the close the market was dull. There has not been much business in foreign bills, but the rates have been very strong, and were advancing at the close. A leading drawer asked 130 for sterling, and the range was 129 1/2 to 130. France nominally 4.30 1/4 to 4.35. Freight is heavy, and rates are somewhat easier at the close, without leading to large transactions. The business of the Sub-Treasury was: Receipts, \$1,583,251 56—for customs, \$633,000; payments, \$2,701,242 33; balance, \$5,950,424 19. Gold continues to advance, although not rapidly. Double eagles were sold to-day as high as 174, and we presume could have been sold at that rate at the close. The Board sales were at 164 1/2 to 117. Silver is 112 1/2 to 113, and in good demand. Custom House Treasury Notes are firm, but do not appreciate as rapidly as gold; they are 107 1/2. The money market continues to work easy, and first-class borrowers find no difficulty in supplying their wants at 5 per cent. The market for the low grades of Western and State Flour opened steady, but subsequently prices declined 5¢. Flour with more favorable advices per *Persia*, the market fully recovered the close of "Change, under the influence of a good export demand; the better grades are irregular, but in fair request; the sales are 28,700 bbls. Canadian is in fair request; prices irregular, closing with more steadiness. Flour is in fair demand, but lower. Rye Flour scarce and firm, with fair inquiry. Corn Meal in fair request, scarce, and better. The Wheat market is not so active, but closes a shade better; the receipts are moderate, and a considerable portion of the sales have been made from store; the sales include 198,000 bush. Barley and Barley Meal dull, and prices nominal. Oats in fair demand, and better. Rye firm, and in fair request. Corn in good demand at the close, and steady; sales 17,500 bush. The Pork market opened firmer and more active. In part for export to London, and New Orleans, but toward the close the demand abated. Beef is in limited demand, but holders are indifferent sellers, unless at full prices. Beef Hams are still large and depressed. Bacon is quiet. Cut Meats are less active. Lard is firmly held, but is less active. Butter and Cheese are steady, and in fair request.

Both Houses of Congress yesterday agreed to slight amendments to the Confiscation bill, so as to do away with the scruples of the President, and secure his signature to the act. In the House, the West Virginia admission bill was postponed till December. The Militia amendment bill passed the House, under the operation of the previous question. Some unimportant verbal amendments were made to the Tax law. The Senate killed the bill authorizing Kentucky to raise troops for service in that State only. The House referred the President's Gradual Emancipation scheme to the Committee of the Whole. The feature of the day, however, was a speech by Senator Chandler on the movements of Gen. McClellan, his plans, reinforcements, &c. This speech, of which we give a pretty full report, will challenge the attention of every reader.

THE REAL QUESTION.

A hundred voices are gabbling, gabbling, and their burden is—"We will not sacrifice the Union to the negro!"—"We can't turn aside from the imperative duty of putting down the Rebellion to attempt the overthrow of Slavery!"—"Wait till the Rebels are crushed out, and then we'll consider what is to be done for the slaves," &c., &c. O blind leaders of the blind! such of you as are not traitors at heart are obstinately, willfully darkened in mind. The question is not—"What shall we do for the negro?"—not at all—noting like it—but *Shall we let the despised, outraged, calumniated slaves help us save the Republic, or see the traitors triumph in its utter and final destruction?* That is the real question of the hour—will you answer it as patriots or as the accomplices of red-handed treason?

There are enough who will say as plainly as they dare—"Better let the Union go than have negroes help us save it." These are at heart with Jeff. Davis, and always have been. They never intended, never desired, that the Rebellion should be put down, though they may have expected that it would somehow be bought off. They have been looking for a "reconstruction," whereby Slavery should secure new possessions, new privileges, new guaranties, and thereby be soothed into at least temporary loyalty and its votaries once more claim to be pre-eminently if not exclusively Union men. That delusion must be now dispelled. The Slave Power stands forth unchangeably, implacably disunion. It has ceased to palaver. It has drawn the sword and flung away the scabbard. It has discarded forever the Stars and Stripes. Henceforth it will have empire or the grave. You cannot soothe it. You cannot conciliate it. No depth of abasement will lure it back into a Union composed in part of Free States. It will not capitulate. It will not negotiate. It will conquer or die.

And it cannot be put down without Southern help. Its territory is too vast. Its forests are too dense. Its topography is too rugged. Its roads are too bad. The Union armies must have guides, scouts, spies, and warnings of ambuscades or cavalry dashes. Without them, our armies will melt away and vanish. We cannot hold, even if we could overrun, a vast empire wherein we have no friends. And in hardly any square mile of the Rebel territory do our Generals find Whites disposed to guide, to warn, or in any manner aid them. Some

would gladly do so, but they dare not. They know that death would be their portion if they did, even though it were delayed for months. The Blacks of the South are instinctively for us wherever we will let them be. The Whites are either against us or fear to declare in our favor, knowing how deadly is the hate and vengeance that Unionism on their part would provoke. Our only hearty Southern allies in the struggle before us are the life-long victims of our enemies, who have all to gain and nothing to lose by the success of the Union.

We must have allies in the South—not merely well-wishers, but active coöperators. We might prefer the slaveholders, but they are our mortal foes. We would like the Poor Whites, but the slaveholders do their thinking. We have but Hobson's choice—the slaves or nobody. They will dig, cook, guide, scout or fight for us if we will give them their freedom. What they want most is just what will signify weaken our enemies and cost us nothing.

—But how can we give liberty to men wholly in the power of our enemies? By assuring them that, on coming within our lines, they shall be welcomed to hospitality, employment, and freedom. All cannot come at once; but all will soon learn that liberty for them goes with the National flag, and will thus be supplied with a strong motive for escaping from the Rebels to us. All will not try to escape to us, nor all get away who try, but some will, and our enemies must therefore devote half their time and strength to keeping the rest back. The "fire in their rear" will be as annoying if not so formidable as that in their front.

Gen. McClellan writes to a friend in Washington that he has employed all the Blacks who come to him, and wants more. Of course; but what inducement did he offer them? In what order or proclamation were the loyal slaves of Virginia exhorted to forsake their Rebel masters and find freedom and protection under the flag of the Union? Few negroes are so stupid as to doubt that any of our Generals would let them dig in our trenches, if they insisted on it—but for what? If their recompense was to be surrendered to their Rebel masters, to be whaled to death as poor Jack Scroggins was in Maryland, who can blame them for standing off?

Gen. Butler has had Five Thousand hearty negroes digging his cut-off in the Mississippi at Vicksburg. He might long since have had Fifty—yes, a Hundred Thousand—strong-armed, stalwart men, had he felt at liberty to call all slaves of Rebels to his aid. And he is very likely to need them ere long. Why not call them seasonably, offering them the cheap but priceless inducement of Freedom?

Men and brethren! we stand for the Union without conditions, and to the last. We know the cause is righteous, and that its defeat is our National ruin. We know that the time is at hand in which every one who is heartily for the Union will be openly for the means essential to its triumph. We do not fear that the right thing will not ultimately be done, but that it will be done too late. There should to-day be flying from every steeple, from every staff, a flag inscribed with the memorable words of Webster, "LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND FOR EVER, ONE AND INSEPARABLE!"

THE BLACK MAN EVERYWHERE.

There is something to us exceedingly droll—we are sure that it rarely otherwise affects our equanimity—in the persistence with which some of our good-natured contemporaries insist that the Negro is to be met with nowhere except in the columns of *THE TRIBUNE*. Setting aside the logical fact that they cannot make this accusation without tumbling into the very offense, real or imaginary, against which it is directed, we assert that, although perhaps in another way, our neighbors are quite as much concerned about the negroes as we are.

The difference is that they consider it a necessity of benevolence and patriotism to perpetuate enslavement and degradation, and we do not. But we appeal to the fair and sensible to determine whether, if they have a right to agitate in one direction, we have not a right to agitate in another. Is it not quite certain, if for any reason we should from this time forth utterly ignore the black race, its rights, its wrongs, its very existence, that Pro-Slavery journals would continue their loose and ribald discussion of the subject? Why not? If they can make money out of coarse cruelty, and an ungenerous prejudice, and a personal meanness of which the drivers of coffee-gangs would not be guilty, they will continue to agitate the negro question until a change of times shall compel them to a change of tune. They find brutality remunerative, and of course are angry with even the humblest profession of benevolence. While thus merely following their low instincts, they are, perhaps, hardly a fit object of enlightened censure; but why should they be enraged with others for endeavoring to be decent? The world is wide. There is a plenty of room in it for people who are not, and who do not want to be respectable. Why should they be forever elbowing those whose tastes are different? Certainly, if the destiny of the black race must be discussed, no matter how unfortunate may be the necessity of such discussion, we do not see why the disputants upon either side must not be tolerated, or why journals like *The Herald*, *The Journal of Commerce*, *The Boston Courier*, *The Albany Argus*, *The N. Y. Observer*, and others should have a monopoly of the subject.

But leaving these papers, and rising into the comparatively purer atmosphere of the United States Senate, we find that even there they cannot let the negro alone. It was only on Thursday last that this most unpleasant, pertinacious and irrepressible creature, at a moment of unspeakable public danger, had the impudence to engross almost an entire session, to the extreme wrath of Mr. Davis of Kentucky, who, however, could not resist the temptation to contribute a few remarks upon the sable subject. Upon the same day, in the House of Representatives, they were guilty of passing an emancipation bill, nor can we see that upon that occasion they passed any other. Going to the camps of the Union forces, we encounter the negro instantly. Going to

conquered New-Orleans we find Major-General Butler agitated upon the subject. Going to the house of the President, we find that he, too, is beset by the negro. Attending divers Democratic State Conventions we are treated to long resolutions setting forth, with more or less, but principally with less lucidity, not what is to be done with the negro, but what, if we would be prosperous and happy, and contented and wealthy, and wise, is not to be done with him. If we then swing round to the other extreme, and go to church, ten to one the pastor has put the negro into his sermon. It is negro here, negro there, negro everywhere! How highly improper! It will never do!

Now, if we were disposed to be cynical, and if, in these distracted times, it were the fashion to laugh, nothing could keep us from a hearty roar at all this evidence of our own singularity, which, after all, does not turn out to be so singularly singular. We are not, it appears, the only people who are interested in the blacks. We, it would seem, do not, by any means, do all the talking about Sambo. There is the person who manages *The Herald*—he is troubled; there is that other person who manages *The Express*—he is anxious; there is that extraordinary person who manages *The Boston Courier*—he is agitated; there are the strong-headed persons who guide and control Democratic Conventions—they are concerned; there are terrible Major-Generals—they tremble in their uniforms; there are Senators and Representatives—they must be talking; there is the President, and he must be proclaiming—and all about Sambo! We assert nothing about the quality, but absolutely we were never in such a quantity of company in our life, before. Those who say that we alone are interested in the African race, do us either too much honor or too much dishonor, just as men may please to consider it.

We wish that it were possible, in the nature of things, to give these gentlemen who desire to carry on and finish this Civil War, without considering Slavery as even the smallest of its elements, an opportunity of astonishing mankind by such an undertaking. It would be so delectably droll, in spite of all the bloodshed and suffering, to see them flounder and fail, manager the most decided elimination of the principal quantity in this vexatious equation. We have never heard or read of any war without some cause, nor of any war either, waged without the slightest reference to, or thought of, that which occasioned it. But it may be that the world is madder than ever before—it may be that we, as a people, are crazier than Don Quixote—for he did suppose the windmills to be real enemies in the flesh. If we are not fighting merely for the supreme and exquisite pleasure of capturing and killing—for the ineffable satisfaction of burying ourselves under a mountain of debt—for the sheer multiplication of widows and orphans—for the embarrassment of commerce and the degradation of currency—for the thrilling romance and tantalizing excitement of war—for the gratification of malice or the assumption of petty passion—for the poor honor of bringing home and of hanging up a dozen tattered trophies—for the generous purpose of enriching the contractors, and adorning the shoulders of new-made officers—if we are not fighting like boys, like lunatics, like drunkards, or like drabs, why we must now and then—as seldom as possible, of course—mention the inevitable negro. He may be a nuisance, and a chronic botheration—he may be confoundedly in the way—we may all wish him in Liberia or Heaven; but there he is, a fixed fact, an indisputable entity; nothing short of a general massacre can rid us of him; and for this we believe hardly anybody, except it be *The Herald* and *The Journal of Commerce*, is yet ready.

THE DEMOCRACY AND THE WAR.

The venerable A. B. JOHNSON of Utica (father of Judge A. S. Johnson, late of the Court of Appeals), has been for many years a respected and influential member of the Democratic party, and has written very ably and forcibly in vindication of its principles and policy. The present attitude of its leaders with regard to the War for the Union does not command his approbation, and in a private letter to an old friend he speaks out as follows: "Gov. Seymour is out for the war, as are the Democratic leaders generally. I maintain that the Democratic party is more responsible for the war than the Abolitionists. The South would never have hazarded Rebellion if they had expected an undivided North. The Democratic party had for many years told the South to resist Northern aggression, and, even as late as the great Democratic Convention at Albany, in February, 1861, the speakers who were most applauded said that, if there was to be any fighting, it should commence at the North against those who would coerce the South; but, after thus seducing the South into rebellion by false assurances, they all repudiated their promises, and were among the first to volunteer against the South. They are thus acting the part of Satan, who, after seducing men to sin, assists in punishing them therefor. If anything could add to the baseness of their position, it is the general belief that they are attempting thereby to give power, that when it is obtained they may betray the North as they have the South, by returning once more to their first love as aids of the Rebels."

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The *Hartford Courant* is one of the most cautious and conservative of all the journals that supported Mr. Lincoln for President. The following is its leader of Tuesday:

It is now almost a full year since the unfortunate rout of the green troops who represented the North at Bull Run took place. In that time vast progress has been made at the South, the South-West, and on the Mississippi. So far as the "On to Richmond" cry is concerned, however, matters seem to have come to a standstill. There is everywhere springing up a conviction, growing out of this check, that the time has come to give the Rebels the severest discipline in our power, careless whether Slavery stands or tumbles. It is time to put an end to peaceable warfare, and to use the means which God and Nature has put into our hands. Gradually the Nation has been educated up to this point. A year ago the Nation was not ready for it; now, it is fully ripe for it; and whenever Mr. Lincoln or his Generals give the word, there will be an exulting shout of acquiescence and readiness to back it up, at all cost of lives, limbs, or money, from the whole North. We begin to appreciate the unscrupulous nature of the Rebellion, and to see less squeamish in hitting it the hardest blows in our power to give. When once the negroes of the South fully understand that our policy has changed, and that we now encourage them to come into our support, and guarantee their freedom forever, after which, un-

less human nature is disconcerted from what it has been accustomed, a vast majority of the four millions of slaves will make haste to convert themselves into free men, and the most efficient allies the North can have.

CALIFORNIA.

We lately chronicled the overwhelming triumph of the Republicans and Douglas Democrats of Oregon, united in the defense of the Union, at their recent State Election. We rejoice to state that California is morally certain to imitate that triumph. A Union State Convention assembled at Sacramento on the 17th, and on the 18th unanimously nominated JOHN SWETT, Principal of the Rincon Grammar School, San Francisco, for Superintendent of Public Instruction—the only State office to be filled by popular vote at the State Election next September. He will of course be overwhelmingly elected. *The Sacramento Union* says the union of the two thoroughly loyal parties will extend to the Legislative and County tickets, and will of course be successful throughout. A satisfactory Union platform was cordially adopted, and a Union State Committee of twenty-one appointed. California will send a new United States Senator to the next Congress.

The State suffered terribly from floods last Winter, but these have doubtless increased the fertility of her rich valleys and the productiveness of her "diggings," by plowing new channels for her streams and washing out old ones. Her industry seems to be generally active and prosperous.

OREGON.

We have *The Oregon Argus* of the 7th ult., with fuller returns of the late Oregon election, with its sweeping Union triumph. We give the vote for Congress in the following table—McBride being a Republican, and of course receiving fewer votes than the Governor elect, Addison C. Gibbs, formerly of Ellicottville, in this State, who is a Douglas Democrat. McBride, however, has over 2,500 majority. Here are the figures:

County.	McBride.	Walt.	Lincoln.	Douglas.	Brock.
Beacon	248	223	213	130	392
Clatsop	640	261	410	179	325
Clatsop	55	10	68	38	25
Columbia	58	44	62	45	36
Columbia	49	40	59	40	31
Curry	75	—	322	284	506
Douglas	150	—	377	399	672
Josephine	10	—	253	211	351
Lane	436	341	507	155	565
Lincoln	140	104	582	398	672
Marion	623	—	538	855	281
Multnomah	—	—	571	364	951
Polk	460	210	571	364	951
Tillamook	—	—	11	8	13
Union	150	104	151	72	75
Wasco	306	121	168	118	255
Washington	309	93	371	134	138
Yamhill	394	169	415	211	217

Total (nearly full): 4,135 1,473 5,270 3,951 5,006
Bell and Everett had 183 votes.
The majority for the Union State Ticket ranges from 2,500 to 3,000, its vote being nearly two-thirds.

It is thought that the Unionists have carried every Member of the new Legislature.

We print this morning an accurate copy of the act just passed by Congress for calling out the Militia. It provides that the President may, at need, cause to be enrolled and put in service for a period not exceeding nine months at one time, all able-bodied citizens between 18 and 45 years of age—the number to be apportioned among the States according to their representative population; that in addition to the men he is already authorized to raise, the President may accept 100,000 volunteers for nine months, and every such volunteer shall have his first month's pay and a bounty of \$25 in advance; that to fill up the existing regiments, he may accept volunteers for twelve months, who shall have \$50 bounty, one half in advance, the other half when their time of service is up; that the President may establish and organize army corps at his own discretion; that a permanent military tribunal shall be established, and no sentence of death or penitentiary imprisonment shall be executed until approved by the President. The organization of army corps and cavalry regiments, so far as relates to number and grade of officers, is specified in the bill. But the great feature of the law is the authority given to the President to employ slaves for constructing intrenchments, performing camp service, or any other labor, or any military or naval service for which they may be competent; and that when any male slave, who owes service to a Rebel or to any one giving aid and comfort to the Rebellion, shall have been employed or done service for the Union, his mother, wife, and children shall forever thereafter be free, in case they owe service or labor to any person who has borne arms against the Union or adhered to or aided the Rebels. It won't take the news long to penetrate to every cotton plantation and rice swamp in the South, that service to the Union cause emancipates the wife, the child, and the decrepit old mother; and when the fact is fully understood, there will be a movement more dangerous to the Rebellion than all the bristling bayonets and iron-clad gunboats at the President's command.

MINNESOTA has been divided into two Congressional Districts, as by law required, and the Democrats have nominated for Congress Judge A. G. Chatfield (formerly of this State) in the 1st (lower) District, and Maj. William J. Cullen (late Superintendent of Indian Affairs) in the 11th (St. Paul) District. The Republicans of the 11th District will hold a Convention to nominate at St. Paul on the 30th inst. *The State News* (St. Anthony) warmly urges the nomination of the Hon. Ignatius Donnelly, now Lieut.-Governor.

COMMISSIONERS OF EMIGRATION.—A meeting of this Board was held yesterday at Castle Garden, but no important business was transacted. The number of immigrants who arrived this week is 2,360, the total number since January 1 being 28,399. There are 639 inmates of the Institution on Ward's Island. The receipts since January 1 have been \$102,832 18, and the disbursements \$77,152 33, leaving a balance in hand on July 16 of \$25,680 85.

DECLINED THE HONOR.—*The Evening Post* announces that "it occasioned some surprise yesterday when it became known that Mr. Daniel Ford declined to have his name on the list of Vice-Presidents of the loyal meeting."

FROM WASHINGTON.

THE REBEL FORCE AND LOSS AT RICHMOND.

The Confiscation Act Explained.

THE DEBATE IN THE SENATE.

The Proposed Gradual Emancipation.

ADMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA POSTPONED.

SENATOR CHANDLER ON THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, July 16, 1862.

THE REBEL FORCE AT RICHMOND.
We hear from Richmond upon excellent authority, and through a trustworthy channel, that the Rebels' official records show that their Richmond army before their late battle on the Chickahominy numbered not more than 91,000, and that their total loss in that week of fighting was not less than 25,000 men.

THE CONFISCATION ACT.

The explanatory joint resolution supplemental to the confiscation and emancipation act, certain constitutional stumbling blocks in the way of the President's signature to which it removes, having passed both Houses of Congress, there is no doubt that the bill, which Congress has been so long framing and the people have so earnestly demanded, will be returned signed to-morrow.

THE DEBATE IN THE SENATE.

In the Senate, the anomalous action of the President in sending through a private channel what was equivalent to an intimation to the Senate that he would veto the bill unless his objections were removed, called forth strong words from Senators King, Lane of Indiana, and Wade of Ohio, and a powerful argument from Senator Trumbull. But the general feeling was that, however questionable as a matter of precedent the course of the President might be in making known his will to Congress in a manner not provided by the Constitution, nevertheless, considering the near approach of the hour of adjournment, and the impossibility of passing another bill, if this should be vetoed, it was thought best to wink at this departure from the ordinary rules of intercourse between the President and Congress, and the legislation requested was finally made, with comparatively slight opposition from the friends of the Administration.

There is little doubt that if the President had sent back the bill signed with an appeal to Congress to pass a supplemental bill to the same effect as that which was passed, it would have received a more general support than was accorded to Senator Clark's amendment. The debate in the Senate indicated that almost all Republicans would have been willing to waive the constitutional point had no question been made of the manner of bringing the matter before the Senate.

The original bill is retained in substance, and its deficiency in confining the forfeiture of real to the life estate will be in a large measure cured by the bill for the collection of direct taxes in insurrectionary districts, which provides for the sale of the land within those districts which belong to those who neglect to pay the tax imposed.

THE ADMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA.

The Senate bill admitting West Virginia into the Union was postponed until December, in the House, by a small majority.

GRADUAL EMANCIPATION.

The Border State Committee this morning reported to the House its bill, the substance of which we telegraphed last night, and it was referred to the Committee of the Whole, a proceeding necessary in the case of appropriation bills. It will not rise from that tomb this session, and it is not likely that the Finance Committee of the Senate, to which the President's bill was referred, will report it back before Winter, if at all.

WHEAT FOR THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.